



Earth Day Roundup

From Everglades tree plantings by numerous Johnny “Pond” Appleseeds to school presentations to teach little Johnny and Jane how conserving water helps protect our environment, the South Florida Water Management District teamed with local organizations, schools and communities to celebrate Earth Day and Water Conservation month. Each year on April 22 – and throughout the month – people from around the world take part in Earth Day events. The District hosted and/or participated in a plethora of these events from Orlando to the Keys. Here’s a roundup of a few:

PLANTING TREES & TOMORROWS

The District kicked off April with a tree-planting event at Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA 5) near Clewiston. This is one of six constructed wetlands in Palm Beach and



Clarissa Wallace, a junior at Pahokee Middle/Senior High School, prepares to plant tree seedlings.

Hendry counties that will naturally remove phosphorus from stormwater runoff before it enters the Everglades. More than 60 volunteers from the District, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as 12 science students from Pahokee

Middle/Senior High School grabbed shovels and planted nearly 5,000 cypress, pond apple and red maple seedlings over 30 acres. The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation donated the seedlings to help restore plant and wildlife habitat.

FAMILIES SAVING WATER TOGETHER

The District’s Big Cypress Basin hosted a second annual Water Symposium Family Fun Day May 3 at Vineyards Community Park in Naples. The park features a small, free waterpark and playground for kids. The goal: teaching residents how to save 10 percent of the water they currently use, while having a good time. The event attracted nearly 600 children and parents, who enjoyed 20 educational activity booths by local organizations and other attractions.



Kids of all ages have fun while learning about recycling and water conservation.

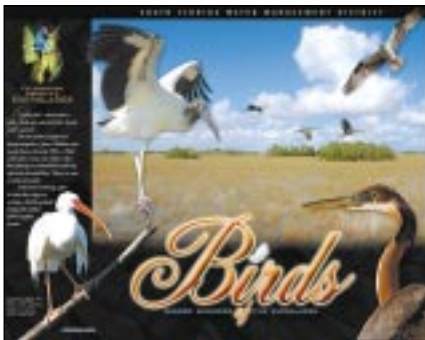
WASTE MATTERS & NATURE SCAPES

At the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach, nearly 4,000 children and families attended the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority’s 2003 Earth Day Celebration. The District exhibit featured interactive games and educational materials highlighting the importance of water conservation and environmental protection.

Nature Scapes was held April 19 at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park on Singer Island. Everglades restoration and water conservation were the themes at the District’s exhibit.

MARTIN & ST. LUCIE COUNTY STUDENTS GET GREEN

Visitors to the Hobe Sound Nature Center at Jonathan Dickinson State Park on April 13 were joined by Martin/St. Lucie Service Center staff in their Earth Day celebrations. District presentations to students at Community Christian School, Stuart Middle School and Frontline Kids brought the conservation message to more area students. Finally, the Martin County School District’s Green School Program included on-site evaluations by area staff of environmental projects by six of 19 schools participating in the program.



EARTH DAY POSTER

If you think Earth Day is “for the birds,” then you’ll enjoy our 2003 commemorative poster. For your free copy, call (800) 432-2045, ext. 6883.

KEYS SCHOLARS COMPETE

The Florida Keys Service Center hosted a booth at the April 11 Envirothon where the theme was “Water Quality Issues in the Florida Keys.” The annual event attracted Monroe County Middle School science students to Crane Point Hammock for a day of learning and fun. On April 12, staff hosted a booth at the Bahia Honda State Park. Hundreds of park visitors shared a beautiful, educational day.

VISITORS BRAVE RAIN FOR DUPUIS GRAND OPENING

In spite of gray skies and pounding rain, this inaugural District-sponsored Earth Day event at the DuPuis Management Area Visitor Center near Indiantown brought nothing but sunshine to visitors. On April 26, students and parents learned about butterfly gardening, fire management and animals from the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Self-guided tours, a poster coloring contest, and exhibits by local environmental organizations and agencies added to the experience. The most popular attraction was the new “habitat interpretive room” featuring native trees, plants, shrubs and flowers, with representations of native wildlife and educational panels describing roles of each in their habitat.

Visitors tour the butterfly garden at the DuPuis Management Area.

FREDDY: HOW WATER WORKS

On April 18, staff from the District’s Orlando Service Center celebrated with approximately 2,500 students and teachers at Barnett Park in Orange County. Using groundwater and wetlands models, they demonstrated the relationship between surface and groundwater and the effects of human activity on our water resources.



Freddie and Orange County mascot “P.A.W.S.” celebrate Earth Day with Orange County representatives.

CELEBRATING NATURE AT QUIET WATERS PARK

At Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach on April 19, several hundred people enjoyed earth-friendly educational activity booths, live music, a “recycled” fashion show, storytelling and more. The District’s Broward Service Center staff distributed Earth Day posters, key chains, sponges, water conservation materials and Everglades restoration brochures at the event, which was hosted by the City of Deerfield Beach Public Works Department, Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management and Broward County Parks & Recreation Division.

CORAL REEF STUDENTS CELEBRATE LEARNING

The District’s Miami-Dade Service Center joined the Coral Reef High School Celebration on April 16. Twelve agencies featured interactive activities such as games, “enviroscape” models and quizzes to teach high school students about Biscayne Bay restoration and preservation, Everglades restoration and water conservation. Miami-Dade Community College, a partner in the District’s Environmental Studies and Community Outreach Program, showcased its environmental science degree programs, which are designed to prepare Florida’s future workforce for opportunities related to the District’s major projects, such as Everglades restoration.



Middle school science students are captivated by a lively presentation.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH WATERFEST

Hundreds of Miami-Dade County School youths learned about water conservation at the third annual North Miami Beach WaterFest at the Greynolds Park Water Education Expo. The event, co-sponsored by the District, City of North Miami Beach and Miami-Dade Parks, is part of ongoing water conservation and education initiatives targeting young people. The event featured a concert by the *Earthman Lanny Smith & The Planet Earth Project*, an interactive, educational show that teaches water conservation, Everglades preservation, clean drinking water and recycling.



Miami-Dade County elementary school children at WaterFest.

RIVER RUNS THROUGH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

One March 15 and 16, the 2003 Caloosahatchee River Days Festival at Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium celebrated the river, its people and the history of Southwest Florida. Sponsored in part by the District, participants enjoyed two full days and evenings of entertainment, demonstrations, exhibits, and games. In April, the District also took part in Earth Day festivities at the CREW Wildflower Weekend, Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Koresham State Park, and La Belle.

